

THE WEATHER: In St. Paul and vicinity today increasing cloudiness and warmer.

THE ST. PAUL GLOBE

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DEATH CLAIMS 560 VICTIMS IN CHICAGO THEATER

THE IROQUOIS THEATER HORROR EPITOMIZED.

Life was burned and trampled out of at least 536 persons in ten minutes yesterday afternoon in the Iroquois theater, Chicago. The calamity has no equal in the history of death-dealing fires in the United States. The play, "Mr. Bluebeard," was proceeding at the matinee when flames were discovered on the stage. Some person in the audience screamed "fire," and instantly the great audience was seized of a panic. The most dreadful scenes ensued. Women and children—constituting the majority of the audience—were trampled under foot by men, striving in brute effort to reach the exits. The asbestos curtain cutting off the body of the house from the stage was partly lowered, then stuck. The draft drew the flames into the body of the house in a sheet. There were two explosions heard dimly above the shrieks of the doomed people, the roof lifted, then fell, and the mass of humanity was blinded and buried in smoke, dust and debris. The most appalling scenes greeted the first rescuers, but it was hours before the extent of the disaster was known. The morgues and undertaking rooms are filled to overflowing with the bodies of the victims. At midnight hundreds of the dead were still unidentified, and thousands of people were going about the street half crazed in a search for dear ones missing. At an early hour this morning the police count of the dead was 536; the newspaper count 562, and there were three score persons missing.

FLAMES AND PANIC DEAL DEATH TO SIX HUNDRED

Iroquois Theater, Chicago, Is the Scene of the Most Horrible Fire Catastrophe the Country Ever Knew—Hundreds Are Crushed to Death and Trampled to Pulp in Frenzied Efforts to Escape.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—About five hundred and fifty persons were killed in ten minutes this afternoon, during a fire in the Iroquois theater, the newest, the largest and as far as human power could make it, the safest theater in Chicago. Estimates of the dead and injured vary. The police count of dead is 536. The estimate of the newspapers is 560. Besides this there are 55 people missing at midnight, the majority of whom are probably among the dead in the morgue and various undertaking establishments. Eighty-six of the dead have been positively identified, and 92 others are known to be injured. A few of these people were burned to death by fire, many were suffocated by gas, and scores were trampled to death in the panic that followed the mad plunge of the frightened audience for the exits. There are bodies lying by the dozens tonight in the undertaking rooms, in the police station and in the hospitals from which nearly everything that could reveal their identity to those who knew them best is gone. Their clothing is torn to rags or burned to cinders and their faces have been trampled into an unrecognizable pulp by the heels of the undisciplined crowd that trampled them down as they fled for safety.

saved. The chief at once called upon all of his men in the vicinity to abandon work on the fire and come at once to the rescue. The building was so dark and the smoke so thick that it was found impossible to accomplish anything until lights had been secured. Word was at once sent to the Orr & Lockett Hardware company, two doors east of the theater, and that firm at once placed its entire stock of lanterns at the service of the department. Over 200 lights were quickly carried into the building and the work of rescue commenced.

BODIES ARE TAKEN OUT RAPIDLY

So rapidly were the bodies brought down that for over an hour there were two streams of men passing in and out of the doorway, the one carrying bodies, the other composed of men returning to get more. They were carried into Thompson's restaurant, which adjoins the theater on the east, where all the available space was given by the proprietor. The dead and wounded were placed upon chairs, tables and counters, one woman even being placed for lack of a better spot on top of a cigar case.

Because of the tremendous throng which surrounded the block in which the theater building stood, it was not possible for the police to carry the dead and wounded any distance, and they were compelled to await for ambulances at the theater.

Although all the patrol wagons and every ambulance owned by the city was pressed into service, they were utterly inadequate to carry away the dead, and in a short time there was a line of corpses fifty feet long piled two and three high on the sidewalk in front of the theater. It was found necessary in order to convey the bodies rapidly to the morgue, and to the various undertaking establishments, to impress trucks into service, and in these, upon costly blankets furnished by the dry goods stores in the vicinity, and covered with the same material, the dead were hauled away practically like so much cordwood.

MERCHANTS RENDER VALUABLE AID

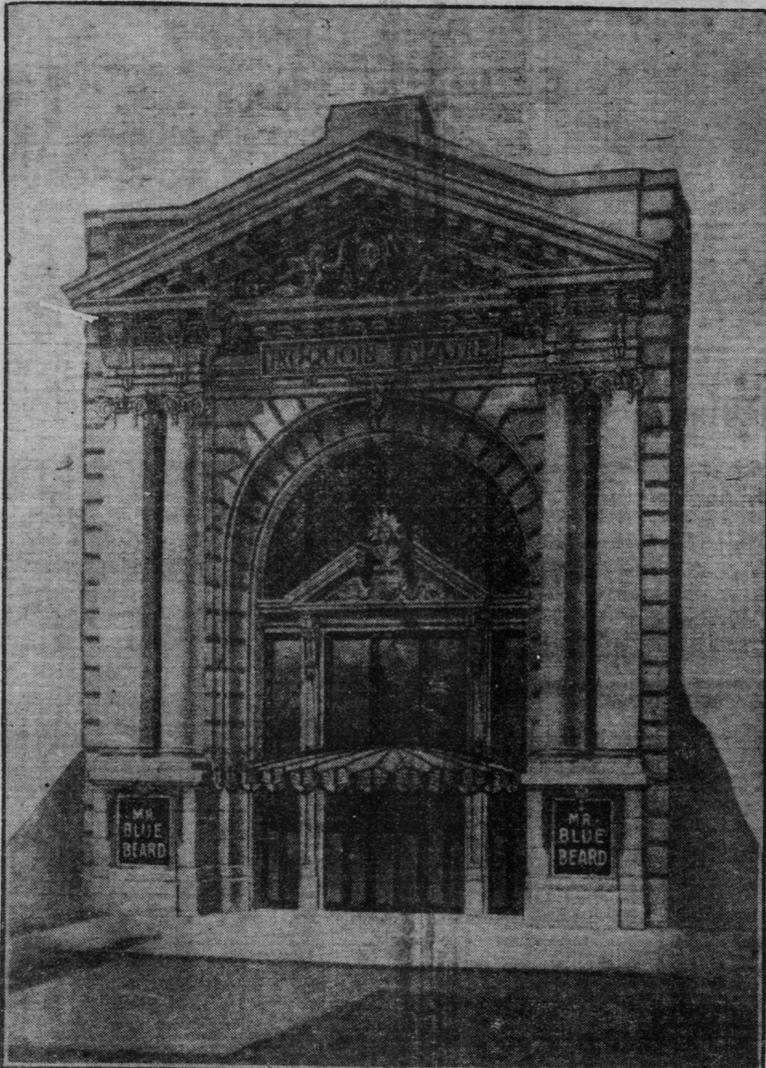
The merchants in the vicinity of the theater rose to the emergency in splendid fashion. Marshall Field & Co., Mandel Bros., Schlesinger & Meyer, Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co., and other large dry goods stores sent wagon loads after wagon loads of blankets, rolls of linen and packages of cotton to be used in binding up the wounds of the injured and to cover the dead. The drug stores furnished their stock to anybody that asked for it in the name of the people hurt in the fire.

Doctors and trained nurses were on the ground by the score within half an hour after the extent of the calamity was known, and every wounded person who was carried from the building received prompt medical aid. A number of doctors waited at the entrance to the theater with stethoscopes in hand.

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TOMB OF HALF A THOUSAND.



New and Magnificent Iroquois Theater, Randolph Street, Between State and Dearborn, Chicago, in Which the Catastrophe Occurred.

MANAGER DAVIS GIVES HIS VERSION

Declares There Was No Need of a Single Life Being Lost.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—While the police and firemen were carrying out the dead and injured Will J. Davis, one of the proprietors of the theater, was indefatigable in his efforts to alleviate all suffering and to assist in caring for the dead. He said:

"There was no need as far as I know of a single life being lost. There were over forty exits to the theater. The building is fireproof and if somebody had not screamed 'fire,' I think that all, as far as those killed in the panic are concerned, could have reached the street in safety. And of those who were suffocated by the gas, nearly all would have been out by the time the explosion occurred if order had been preserved in making their exit.

"As far as we have learned everybody on the first floor except three escaped, although some sustained bruises and other minor injuries. The great loss of life was in the first and second balconies. These combined will seat about 900 persons. The sales of seats had been good, but were not up to the capacity, and as far as I can estimate the balconies between them held between 750 and 800 persons. The top balcony, where the cheapest seats are located, was the most crowded, and here it was the crowd found most difficulty in struggling toward the exits. It was declared tonight by the management of the theater that the fire was not caused by the grounding of an electric wire or to any defect in the equipment of the theater. It started, they claim, by the bursting of a calcium light apparatus. The concussion was so great that it blew out the skylights over the stage and auditorium. This statement of the theater management is contradicted by many people who were in the theater and who declared that before the explosion occurred they saw flames in a narrow streak creeping along the wall near the upper part of the drop curtain. William C. Sellers, the house fireman, who was severely burned in trying to lower the asbestos curtain, describes the scene on the stage and the cause of the fire as follows: "I was standing in the wings when I heard the explosion, and then immediately afterward a cry of fire from the stage and all over the theater. Looking up I saw the curtain was ablaze, and at once I ran for the fire curtain. We got it half way down when the wind rushing in from the broken skylight belied it out so that it caught and we could not budge it. With the stage hand, I climbed to where it was suspended, and together we tried to push it down. Our efforts were futile, and, seeing no human power could move that fire curtain and that the stage was a mass of flames, I turned my attention to warn-

EDDIE FOY TELLS OF THE HORROR

Says Disaster Was Due to Failure of Fireproof Curtain to Work.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—The members of the theatrical company, being on the first floor, had comparatively little difficulty in reaching the street, although their situation was for a moment highly critical because of the speed with which the flames swept through the mass of scenery in the files and on the stage.

Eddie Foy, principal comedian in the play, was one of the last to escape, by getting out through a rear door after assisting the women members of the company to safety. He went into the Sherman house in his stage costume and with his face covered with grease paint in order to secure surgical attendance for some burns which he had sustained. In describing the commencement of the fire, Foy attributed the extent of the catastrophe to the failure of the fireproof curtain to work properly. Because of this, he said, the flames readily obtained access to the main part of the theater, and were, by the draft, carrying with it gas as well as fire, swept up to the two balconies, where the loss of life was greatest.

CAUSED BY ELECTRIC WIRE BREAKING

"The fire began in the middle of the second act," said Mr. Foy. "An electric wire broke, was grounded, and from this the flames were started in

MOURNING THOUSANDS HAUNT THE DEAD HOUSES

Work of Identifying the Bodies Progresses Slowly and Only One-Fifth of the Whole Number Has Been Named—The List of Missing Grows, but Many Scores May Never Be Found.

Special to The Globe. CHICAGO, Dec. 31, 2 a. m.—The ghastly work of preparing the dead for view by the thousands of anxious friends and relatives who haunt the morgues and other places where the bodies of the victims are lying is progressing slowly, and only one-fifth of the bodies have been identified at this hour. Dreadful and distressing scenes are being enacted everywhere, and the city is a house of mourning, the streets crowded with frenzied seekers for missing dear ones. The list of the known dead follows, and it is probable that as many more will be identified before day breaks on the horror-stricken city:

- THE DEAD. AUSTRIAN, Walter D. BOYERSOETH, HELEN, Evanston, Ill. BUERMAN, MARGARET. BUSHNELL, LOUISE, Chicago. BUCHRAY, LOUISE, Chicago. BLACKMAN, ETHEL, thirteen years old, daughter of Henry B. Blackman, freight department Marshall, Field & Co., living at Glenview, Ill. BUTLER, MRS. L. R., Chicago, at morgue. BALLEY, BERNICE, Chicago. BRINCKLEY, MRS. EMMA. BULL, WILLIAM. BESSINGER, WALTER. COULTS, W. H., Chicago. CAVANAUGH, MRS., lived on Indiana avenue, Chicago. ECKFORD, G. M. BURTEL, WILLIAM. BUSHWAH, LOUISE. BOYSE, MRS. W. T. BARTLETT, MRS. C. D. BOISE, JEA. COOPER, C. L., Chicago. CURRAN, MAE, Chicago. COUTELL, THOMAS, Chicago. COOPER, HELEN. DULDEY, REV. GEORGE H. DONALDSON, MISS A., eighteen years of age, identified by telegram found in her purse. DELEE, MISS V., Chicago, daughter late lieutenant of police. DODD, MISS J. H., of Delaware, Ohio. DONALDSON, H., address unknown. DAWSON, MRS., address unknown. DALY, LESTER. DEFFENDORF, LEANDER. DANBECK, MRS. JOHN A. DAWSON, WILLIAM. EISLER, WALTER B. ELDREDGE, MORTIMER. FULLER, G. A. JOHNS, ETHEL, daughter of S. P. Jones, attending theater with brothers and sisters, two of whom are missing and three accounted for. It was reported at Vaughan's seed store, where the body of Miss Jones was taken, that the mother, an invalid, dropped dead when she received the tidings of her daughter's death. JOHNSON, J. C., Chicago, died in hospital. HOLLAND, LEIGH. HUDSON, HARRY. HARRAUGH, MRS. Chicago. HOWARD, MISS, Chicago. HOOPER, W. W., Kenosha, Wis. HENRY, MRS. G. A., Chicago. HALL, EMILY, Chicago. HOLST, RICHARD. HOLST, ALLEN. HOLLAND, JOHN. HOWARD, HELEN. KENNER, MISS EDITH. KING, MRS. JOHN C., wife of John C. King, attorney, Chicago. KOCKERS, J. A., Chicago. KIEFER, HARVEY, LaCade, St. Louis. KOLL, CHARLES H. KAUFMAN, ALICE. KIBNER, LOUIS and wife, Blue Beard company. LANG, HORTENSE, age 16, Chicago. LANG, IRENE, age 11, Chicago. Their mother escaped. LAKE, MRS. A., Chicago, identified at the morgue. LINDEN, ELLA, Chicago. LEATIN, RIESENHART. MARVEL, MRS. F. A. MARTIN, ROBERT. MARTIN, HAROLD, Pullman, Ill.

- MARSH, MRS. W. T., Chicago. MALONEY, MRS. JAMES D., Chicago, wife of a plumber. M'CAUGHAN, HELEN, with party of seven high school girls in balcony. MORRILL, MRS. F. A., Chicago. MINWHEAN, MRS. JOHN, wife of Ald. Minwhean. MERRIAM, MILDRED, Chicago, three years old, was rescued by father but died on reaching street. MORTON, EDMUND W., agent Warner Electric Man. Co., St. Louis. MOSES, E., Chicago. MARRIE, MRS. M'LAUGHLIN, WILLIAM. MANDAL, A., Chicago, identified by ring. MOORE, H. H., Chicago. MARTIN, MISS MATTIE. M'GARY, WILL. MOAK, ANNIE. M'CLELLAND, JAMES. MENDEL, MRS. A. M. NORTON, MISS EDITH, of Ontonagon, Mich. NEWBY. NUBER, member, Traveling Passenger Agents' association, carried check 14.231. O'DONNELL, MRS. PATRICK P., Chicago, wife of the president of the O'Donnell & Duer Brewing company. PHILLIPSON, MRS. JOSEPH. PHACKER, WALTER. PHILLIPSON, LILLIAN, age six years; identification uncertain. PETERSON, FORMETTA, Chicago. PRANG, W. N. ROSS, MISS N. RAYMER, MISS ABBIE, daughter of Aid. Raymer. RATTLEY, J., died at hospital. Before death he spoke of two boys who had been with him. Boys thought to have perished. ROSS, MISS, Chicago, daughter of Dr. Ross. RATLEY, WILLIAM, Chicago, died in hospital. REED, WILLIAM M., lawyer, Waukegan, Ill. ROGERS, ROSE K., identified by card in purse. REGENBERG, B., Chicago. RICHARDSON, REV. HENRY L. TREITON, MISS GLADYS, Alpena, Mich. STERLING, ANNA, Chicago. SPENCER, MISS, Chicago. SULLIVAN, MRS. A., Chicago. STERN, MRS., Chicago. SEDILL, WARNER. SAYORE, HARRY J. SPRING, MRS. W. A. SPINGLER, MRS. J. H. SAWYER, FRED. STUDELY, REV. GEORGE HOWARD, pastor of All Strangers' church. SCOTT, BURR, Chicago. SHIBBARD, LULU. TURBURN, C. W., AND FAMILY, Chicago. VAN INGEN, JOHN, Kenosha, Wis. WILSON, MRS. WALSH, MARIE, age fifteen years, Chicago. WATTMAN, OTTO, Chicago. WARDMAN, S., Chicago; body at morgue. WINSLOW, C. A., commercial traveler from Three Rivers, Mich. WELLS, DONALD, name on handkerchief. WILLIAMS, H. W., Chicago. WOLFF, MRS. LEO, Hammond, Ind. WINDES, PAUL. ZEISLER, WALTER E. UNKNOWN DEAD. THREE MEN, employed among the files on the stage, names unknown. UNKNOWN BOY, eight years of age, burned beyond recognition. TWO UNKNOWN WOMEN, met death jumping from rear fire escape while their garments were aflame. "MARTIN," a boy of fifteen. HENNING, a boy. WHITE, FOX, a boy. THE MISSING. Alexander, Mrs. Aldrich, Ruth, Evanston, Ill. Brewster, Julia. Barton, Mrs., and daughter. Beltel, William C. Edie, Miss Laura. Chapman, Bessie, Cedar Rapids, Ia. Chapman, Nina, Cedar Rapids, Ia. Culliston, Joseph. Cantwell, Mrs. Thomas. Dooley, Frank. Duval, Mrs. Daner, Mrs., Burlington, Iowa. Devine, Margaret.

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